

Immediately below the constriction there is a slight tinge of yellowish colouring.

The web that unites the lower portions of the tentacles forms a rather deep cup round the proboscis, and is coloured by the batteries of thread-cells that occur between each pair of arms. These intertentacular thread-cells are similar to those which thickly cover the capitulum of the snake-like organs. They emit a very long thread, with a barbed sheath at its base. These slender filaments may be seen cast forth beyond the tentacles, and intermingling with them, and must constitute an effective auxiliary force for the capture of prey. The arms are held alternately elevated and depressed.

The chitinous tube that encloses the base of the tentaculoid appendages is small and somewhat trumpet-shaped.

The *Ophiodes*, it will be seen, combines a large number of interesting characters; and one or two of its most striking features are unique. It presents a really remarkable array of curious structures—the distinct funnel-shaped head crowning the tapering body, and itself crowned by the tentacular verticil with its battery of thread-cells at every embrasure, the elegant calycle, the strange snake-like organ near it, either resting motionless and sentinel-like or twisting vehemently about, bristling above at times with barbs, and casting abroad its fatal threads, and the number of similar organs below, twirling themselves about in the maddest fashion, as if to scare away any invaders.

Hab. On weed, dredged in shallow water (5–8 fathoms), Swanage Bay, Dorset. Not uncommon.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XIV.

Figs. 1 & 2. *Ophiodes mirabilis*, Hincks, highly magnified.

Fig. 3. One of the tentaculoid organs.

Fig. 4. A portion of the tentacular circle, showing the connecting web with its clusters of thread-cells.

Fig. 5. A calycle, showing the cup-shaped chamber which encloses the base of the polypite.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Annuario della Società dei Naturalisti in Modena. Anno I. Modena, Maggio 1866. 8vo, pp. 152, with 8 plates.

THE political development of Italy is attended by a gradual and steady progress of science. Scientific publications have been until lately comparatively few in number; and such as have appeared have been more or less marked by some irregularity in the manner of their

publication, many being most difficult to obtain, and apparently reserved for private circulation. In consequence of the limited intercourse between Italian naturalists and those of other countries, the labours of the former have remained sometimes for years unknown to the latter. Among those who have been most influential in effecting a change in all this, we must mention Professor Canestrini of Modena. He started the 'Archivio per la Zoologia, l'Anatomia, e la Fisiologia,' a work by this time well known to most biologists, from the original and important articles contained in the four volumes which have as yet appeared. Among his numerous zoological and archæological memoirs, we would direct special attention to that on Italian Freshwater Fishes*, invaluable on account of the author's acquaintance with the literature, and critical discernment of species. There is now a Society of Naturalists of Modena, under the presidency of the same gentleman, which, by publishing the memoirs read at the meetings in an annual volume, promises to be a source of general benefit to science. The volume now before us contains the following memoirs:—

Prof. Canestrini.—Archæological objects from the Modenese district.

Prof. Generali.—On a case of Induration of a Bovine Fœtus.

Prof. Rondani.—On Hymenopterous Parasites of *Cecidomyia frumentaria*.

Prof. Salimbeni.—Practical hints on the Culture of the Silkworm.

Prof. Ragona.—On the "isæoric" Lines (*linee iseoriche*, from *ἴσος*, equal, and *αἰώρα*, oscillation) of the Italian Peninsula, and some other questions regarding the distribution of temperature in Italy.

Prof. Ghiselli.—New views on Madness of Dogs.

Dr. Boni.—Descriptions of objects of Art of high antiquity recently discovered in the Modenese district.

Prof. Generali.—On the Changes of Colour in the Blood of some Insects when exposed to Atmospheric Air.

Prof. Canestrini.—Catalogue of the Freshwater Fishes of Italy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"CAPTURE OF A RARE FISH (*Ausonia Cuvieri*) AT FALMOUTH.

"To the Editor of the 'West Briton.'

"SIR,—It affords me great pleasure to be able to record the capture of another rare and interesting addition to the fauna of the British Isles. Yesterday, about noon, as some fishermen were scanning the bay with their glasses, carefully watching for the approach of pilchards, their attention was attracted to a strange commotion about low-water mark, between the Castle Point and Gyllyngvase. They at

* "Prospetto critico dei Pesce d' Acqua dolce d' Italia," Archiv. per la Zool. 1866, iv. pp. 47-187.